

## Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-11 AID-20

IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 CIEP-02

AGR-20 CEA-02 RSR-01 /154 W  
----- 002577

R 051255 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1160

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 352

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EAID MR SA KU

SUBJECT: SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS PLEDGE ECONOMIC SUPPORT TO MAURITANIA

SUMMARY. MAURITANIA BEGINNING TO REAP BENEFITS OF FRIENDLY  
TIES WITH ITS OIL WEALTHY COUSINS.

1. FONMIN MOUKNASS TELLS ME THAT DURING HIS RECENT SWING  
THROUGH ARABIAN PENINSULA HE RECEIVED FOLLOWING COMMITMENTS  
BY KUWAIT AND SAUDI ARABIA TO BACK MAURITANIAN CURRENCY AND  
ASSIST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

A. KUWAITI PRIMIN AGREED SEND REP GOK CENTRAL BANK ( ATEEQI)  
TO NOUAKCHOTT IN NEAR FUTURE TO NEGOTIATE SIZE OF KUWAITI DEPOSIT  
HERE TO HELP GUARANTEE NEW MAURITANIAN CURRENCY;

B. KUWAIT FUND FOR ARAB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NOW STUDYING  
DOSSIERS OF GORGHOL PROJECT, ON WHICH DETAILED UNDP STUDY  
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IN HAND, AND BOGUE PLAIN DEVELOPMENT. ( GIRM CONSIDERS THESE  
TWO TO BE ITS KEY AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS);

C. SAUDIS ALSO WILL MAKE DEPOSIT IN CENTRAL BANK HERE;

MOUKNASS DID NOT WISH DISCUSS SPECIFICS OF SAUDI COMMITMENT AT THIS TIME;

D. SAUDIS ALSO PREPARED STUDY FINANCING NOUAKCHOTT- BOUTILIMIT SECTOR OF PLANNED EAST- WEST HIGHWAY ( NOUAKCHOTT- NEMA.) ENGINEERING STUDIES OF THIS SECTOR NOW UNDERWAY, FINANCED BY FRG. MOUKNASS ALSO PRESENTED " AFTOUT AS- SAHEL" DOSSIER IN RIYADH; THIS MAJOR PROJECT WOULD UTILIZE EXISTING SURFACE DEPRESSION PARALLELING ATLANTIC COAST TO SIPHON SENEGAL RIVER WATER NORTHWARDS AND THEREBY OPEN UP POSSIBILITIES FOR IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE.

2. MOUKNASS OUTSPOKEN IN HIS PRAISE FOR FAISAL, COMMENTING THAT PRIOR RECENT MEETINGS HE HAD NOT SUFFICIENTLY APPRECIATED EXTENT OF KING' S " MORAL STRENGTH." FAISAL TOLD FONMIN HE REGRETTED SAG HAD FORGOTTEN MAURITANIA IN PAST BUT WOULD REMEDY THIS. SAG WISHED PLAY EXPANDED ROLE IN ASSISTING ARAB AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES, DESPITE ITS HEAVY OBLIGATIONS TO PALESTINIAN CAUSE. ADDED NOW THAT SAG REALIZED THIS WAS NOT A COMMUNIST COUNTRY ( SIC) , MAURITANIA COULD COUNT ON ITS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. IN CONCLUSION, KING SAID FONMIN SAQQAF MIGHT VISIT HERE AS PART OF FORTHCOMING TOUR SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES ( NO DATE MENTIONED).

3. PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH TOLD ME MAY 4 THAT FAISAL IS THUS FAR ONLY CHIEF OF STATE TO REPLY TO LETTERS WHICH HE SENT LAST MARCH IN HIS CAPACITY AS CURRENT PRESIDENT OF OMVS. SPEAKING FOR SENEGALESE AND MALIAN PRESIDENTS AS WELL, OULD DADDAH HAD WRITTEN SEEKING ASSISTANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SENEGAL RIVER DAMS AND RELATED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. ( NOUAKCHOTT 141, NOTAL). KING IN REPLY INVITED OULD DADDAH TO SEND TECHNICIANS TO SAUDI ARABIA TO DISCUSS OMVS PROJECTS.

4. ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT IN ADDITION ITS ONE MILLION DOLLAR GRANT MADE LAST DECEMBER FOR DROUGHT RELIEF, SAG HAS JUST AGREED FINANCE EQUIPMENT PURCHASE FOR NOUAKCHOTT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE TO TUNE OF DOLLARS FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND AND WILL  
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ALSO BUILD FIVE MOSQUES HERE.

5. COMMENT. MAURITANIA MAY BE ABOUT TO PROFIT FROM ITS ARAB HERITAGE FOR FIRST TIME SINCE BENI HASSAN ARAB INVASION IN LATE SIXTEENTH CENTURY. BELIEVE GIRM LEADERSHIP WELCOMES PROSPECT SAUDI AND KUWAITI AID NOT ONLY IN ITSELF, BUT AS RELIEF FROM NEAR EXCLUSIVE DEPENDENCE ON LIBYAN BOUNTY, HERETOFORE THIS COUNTRY' S ONLY MAJOR PROSPECTIVE DONOR OF CAPITAL ASSISTANCE FROM ARAB WORLD.  
MURPHY

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NMAFVVZCZ

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